

## QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. HOW DOES THE 1948 TOBACCO ACREAGE COMPARE WITH 1947?
2. WHAT IS THE INDICATED TOTAL PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO IN N. C.?
3. WHAT IS THE INDICATED YIELD PER ACRE OF CORN IN 1948?
4. IS THE PROSPECTIVE 1948 CORN CROP THE LARGEST OF RECORD?
5. HOW DOES THE INDICATED PRODUCTION OF SOYBEANS COMPARE WITH 1947?
6. HOW DOES THE PROSPECTIVE COTTON CROP COMPARE WITH LAST YEAR?
7. WHY IS THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT IN 1948 BELOW 1947?
8. WHY IS THE PRODUCTION OF PEACHES LOW IN 1948?
9. WHAT IS THE INDICATED PRODUCTION OF APPLES IN N. C.?
10. DID MILK PRODUCTION INCREASE IN JULY AS COMPARED WITH JUNE?

## AUGUST 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

## FARM OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

Total economic activity in the Nation continues at record levels, with little evidence of any weakening.

Consumer demands for farm products continue exceptionally strong. Prospects are favorable for another year of heavy crop production. Prices are moving upward. Wholesale prices are close to last January's peak and the retail price level in urban communities is now above the January level.

Meat and meat animal prices are at new high and may increase further this summer and early fall as meat production declines seasonally. Strong demand for milk and milk products is being reflected in record prices to farmers. High consumer demand for cigarettes and improved outlook for exports are favorable demand factors for flue-cured marketings. Price supports will be 10 percent higher than last year because of the increase in flue-cured parity prices. Domestic demand for cotton is limited to small lots for prompt shipment. Export buying is somewhat more active but demand is mostly for the better qualities which are in short supply. Prices of wheat are now close to the loan level and may average above the loan level in the 1948-49 marketing year.

Total production of the 4 feed grains is expected to be the largest on record. A smaller hay supply is in sight, but is expected to be ample for the fewer livestock on farms.

## CROP PROSPECTS

August 1 prospects in North Carolina continued favorable for practically all spring planted crops. A record corn crop of nearly 74 million bushels moved nearer to realization during July. Such a production will give North Carolina a total grain crop of 89.5 million bushels - nearly 3 million bushels above total production last year despite a 27 percent reduction in total production of all small grain. Wheat prospects turned out 6 percent below July 1 expectations and 28 percent below 1947. On the other hand the oats crop promises to exceed July 1 indications about 3 percent. Dry June and July weather cut hay prospects with current estimates 3 percent below the previous year.

The hot, dry mid-June to mid-July weather provided almost ideal growing weather for cotton. As a consequence, a crop of 48 percent above 1947 was in prospect August 1. Tobacco came through the June-July dry period without excessive loss and prospects continue to be about 23 percent below last year and 6 percent above average. A peanut crop 19 percent above last year and 20 percent above average appears in sight. The soybean crop will be about 5 percent less than last year, due to lower yields. Sweet potato production will be about 6 percent less than last year and 12 percent below average as the result of a smaller acreage.

## TOBACCO PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

In most areas tobacco transplanting was completed considerably earlier than last year and under favorable conditions. A majority of the growers sought ways and means of offsetting the cut in acreage. As a result, much of the acreage was set closer in the row and the width of rows was reduced. Also, the rate of fertilizer application was increased. Thus, growers had set the stage for potential bumper yields. Hence, the final outcome of the crop rested largely with the unpredictable elements of nature.

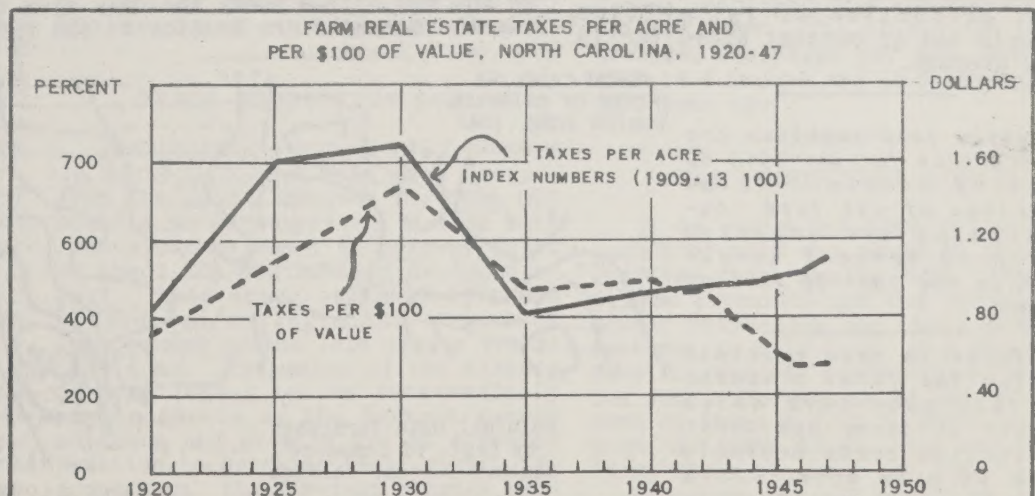
Everything progressed favorably until about the middle of June when rainfall practically stopped in many tobacco areas. Around July 1 surplus moisture supplies disappeared, much of the tobacco stopped growing and took on a "sickly" appearance. By mid-July hopes had about gone for more than a token yield from a large part of the acreage. During this period the plants had sent their roots deep into the soil seeking water. Then the rains came, the heavy applications of fertilizer went into solution and the tobacco plants rapidly took on new growth. The rains came too late for some fields which had been forced into early maturity by dry weather, but for the entire crop improvement was sufficient by August 1 to assure most growers average yields or better.

Refer to the table on page 4 for detailed information on prospective yield per acre and total production.

## FARM REAL ESTATE TAXES

The index of farm real estate taxes per acre in North Carolina advanced from 517 percent of the 1909-13 average in 1946 to 554 percent in 1947. This compares with the high of 748 percent in 1930. The 1909-13 average tax per acre was 8 cents. In 1947 tax levies averaged 44 cents per acre and 41 cents per acre in 1946. In 1930 the average per acre tax was 59 cents.

Taxes per \$100 of real estate value averaged 50 cents in 1947 showing a 1 cent increase over 1946. This is the first increase since 1940. Tax levies per acre have shown a slight upward trend since 1935, but taxes per \$100 of value were lower because of the substantial increase in value of farm land.





## OUTLOOK FOR RECORD CORN CROP

A record corn crop of nearly 74 million bushels continues to be in prospect for the state this year. The "bumper" crop is attributed to the expected record yield of 32 bushels per acre which is 1.5 bushels higher than last year from an acreage about 8 percent larger than a year ago but one percent below average.

The increasing use of hybrid seeds adaptable to state conditions is rapidly promoting better cultural practices for corn and extending its use as a cash crop in many sections of the state. Nearly one-fourth of the 1948 acreage is estimated to be planted with hybrid seeds, whereas only 2,000 acres were planted ten years ago.

The crop in the Northern half of the state has responded rapidly to rains since mid-July and is now indicative of good yields. However, in localized sections of the Southern half of the state old corn was too far advanced to recover materially from the damage caused by the dry period earlier in the season. General rains around August 1 were beneficial to later plantings in all areas of the state.

A National corn crop of about 3.5 billion bushels is in prospect. This would be nearly 46 percent larger than the crop harvested last year.

## SOYBEAN CROP LESS THAN YEAR AGO

August 1 conditions point to a soybean crop (for beans) of about 3.7 million bushels. The indicated yield of 13.5 bushels per acre is 1.5 bushels below last year's yield but 2 bushels above average. However, the 277 thousand acres likely to be harvested for beans this year is 6 percent more than last year and 36 percent above average.

Generally prospects are good for soybeans in coastal commercial producing counties but the crop is quite variable in other sections. In most sections plants have made satisfactory growth but insect damage, particularly from army worms, is more widespread than usual.

For the nation, a record soybean crop of 205 million bushels is indicated. This is 13 percent above the 1947 production of 181 million bushels and 52 percent above the 10 year average.

Ample feed supplies are in prospect for the 1948-49 feeding season. Total supplies of all feed concentrates are expected to be 18 percent larger than in the 1947-48 feeding season.

Farmer's cash receipts during the first 7 months of this year were above a year earlier; but their production costs probably were up even more. Farm cash receipts are less in N. C. in 1948 than in 1947.

## COTTON PROSPECTS GOOD

Weather conditions in North Carolina have been generally favorable for cotton production. Most of the crop was put in the ground earlier than last year and under favorable conditions. Some replanting was necessary to obtain good stands, especially in southern piedmont counties where a short dry spell reduced germination. However, for the state as a whole replanting requirements were not abnormal. Moisture supplies early in the growing season were mostly ample, and plants made rapid growth. Dry, hot conditions existed over most of the producing areas from about mid-June to around the middle of July. These conditions were favorable to plant development and weevil control. However, weevils are menacing the crop in lower coastal counties where rainfall has been more frequent than in other sections. Weather conditions since mid-July have favored the development and spread of this insect, particularly in eastern areas and their migration northward has been rather rapid. In general, however, conditions as of August 1 were favorable for cotton.

Based on August 1 conditions, North Carolina's 1948 cotton crop is forecast at 670,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight) -- 48 percent more than the 452,000 bales harvested last year. This year's crop is about 15 percent above the 10-year (1937-46) average of 582,000 bales.

COTTON: CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, AUGUST 1, 1948, ALL STATES

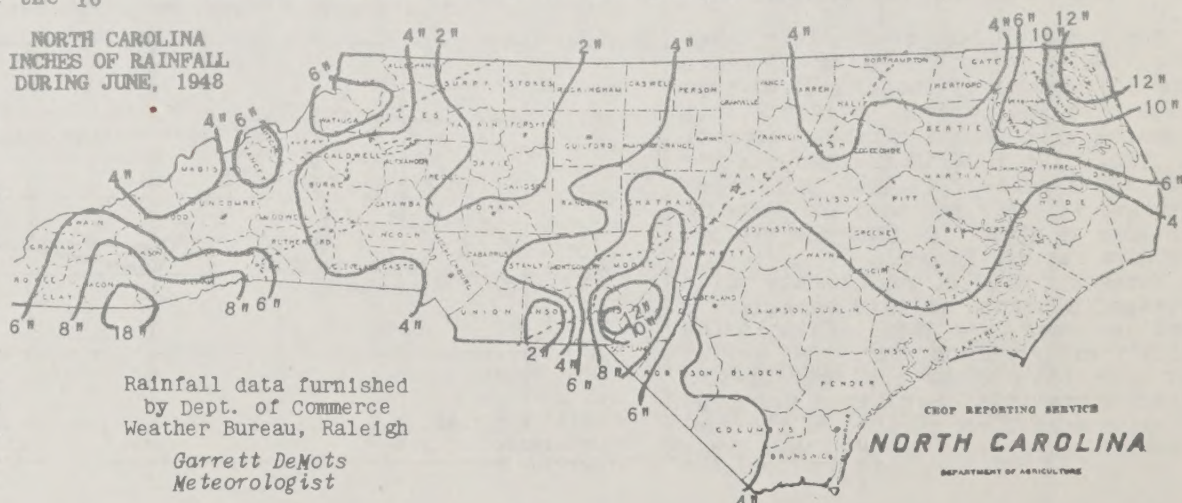
COTTON STATES	AUGUST 1 CONDITION (% OF NORMAL)		ACREAGE FOR HARVEST (IN THOUSANDS)		PRODUCTION 2/			
					YIELD PER ACRE (LBS. LINT)		TOTAL 500 LB. GROSS WT. BALES (IN THOUSANDS)	
	1947	1948	1947 1/	1948 1/	1947	1948	1947	1948
N. CAROLINA	79	86	647	721	335	446	452	670
MISSOURI	72	92	431	523	345	505	311	550
VIRGINIA	-	-	23	24	369	400	18	20
S. CAROLINA	70	84	1,050	1,163	297	396	651	960
GEORGIA	70	78	1,270	1,306	246	276	651	750
FLORIDA	-	-	24	26	239	258	12	14
TENNESSEE	74	88	700	778	356	438	520	710
ALABAMA	72	87	1,500	1,627	298	354	930	1,200
MISSISSIPPI	76	89	2,350	2,526	320	432	1,569	2,275
ARKANSAS	78	91	2,050	2,283	298	415	1,276	1,975
LOUISIANA	74	80	830	923	292	364	505	700
OKLAHOMA	72	78	1,120	1,036	141	162	330	350
TEXAS	83	79	8,350	8,979	197	187	3,431	3,500
NEW MEXICO	87	97	151	211	570	557	179	245
ARIZONA	91	92	225	274	497	499	234	285
CALIFORNIA	93	87	534	806	693	566	772	950
ALL OTHER 3/	-	-	14	17	350	434	10	15
U. S. ....	78	85	21,269	23,223	267.2	313.5	11,851	15,169

- 1/ Indicated Aug. 1 on area in cultivation July 1 less 10-year average abandonment.  
 2/ Allowance made for interstate movement of seed cotton for ginning.  
 3/ Illinois, Kansas and Kentucky.

## WEATHER SUMMARY, JULY 1948

The first part of the month was characterized by rather hot weather with rainfall confined to widely scattered thunderstorms. During this period a general drouth, continuing from June, was becoming serious over most of the state, especially in sections of the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. A small tropical storm, which had moved inland from the Gulf of Mexico, brought excessive rains to some mountain areas on the 11th and 12th. The drouth was not broken for the remainder of the state, however, until the 20th when rains, associated with thunderstorms, fell over most sections. By the end of the month the only area that was still deficient in rainfall was the northwestern section of the Piedmont belt.

NORTH CAROLINA  
INCHES OF RAINFALL  
DURING JUNE, 1948



Rainfall data furnished  
by Dept. of Commerce  
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Garrett DeMots  
Meteorologist



## PEANUT CROP GOOD

On August 1 the state's peanut crop (for picking and threshing) was indicated at 368 million pounds. This would be about 58 million pounds or 19 percent larger than the 1947 crop and 20 percent larger than average. The 307,000 acres likely to be harvested for nuts this year is only two percent larger than that harvested a year ago. Thus, the expected yield of 1200 pounds of nuts per acre -- 170 pounds above that attained a year ago will mostly account for the larger crop.

Rains since mid-July were beneficial to peanuts in all important producing areas. Except in some localized sections, stands are good, fields generally are clean, plants have attained good growth and pegging is progressing satisfactorily. So far there has been less damage from "leaf-spot" reported than usual but weather conditions have been conducive to insect damage in some local sections.

For the entire Virginia-Carolina area an expected crop of about 554 million pounds is 9 percent larger than last year and 15 percent above average. The prospective National peanut crop of about 2.3 billion pounds is 7 percent more than 1947 and 34 percent above average.

## WHEAT CROP BELOW EXPECTATIONS

Reports of combine and threshing operations indicate that the state's 1948 wheat crop is smaller than expected earlier in the season. With harvest about complete it is now evident that the crop will produce about 6.9 million bushels. This is 6 percent below indications a month ago and 28 percent less than the nearly 8.5 million bushels harvested last year. The smaller crop than last year is attributed to both lower per acre yields and a reduced acreage. The yield this year of 16 bushels per acre is one bushel below that of last year. Also, unfavorable conditions for seeding the 1948 crop resulted in 13 percent less acreage harvested above last year.

## HAY SUPPLIES REDUCED

Dry weather during the latter part of June and the early part of July throughout the piedmont and central coastal areas reduced North Carolina's 1948 prospective hay supplies. Also, frequent rains after mid-July have hampered harvesting operations and caused some losses in the field. Losses, due to rains were fairly heavy in some sections on late cuttings of alfalfa. Expected yields from lespedeza, alfalfa and clover and Timothy hays were lower than on July 1.

The total 1948 hay crop for North Carolina is now estimated at 1,165,000 tons, nearly 3 percent under the 1947 crop and 1 percent below average. This is down 5 percent from July 1 prospects. Indications point to per acre yield of .95 tons for "all hay".

## SMALLER SWEETPOTATO CROP

August 1 conditions point to a sweetpotato crop of 6.9 million bushels. This would be 6 percent smaller than the 1947 crop and 12 percent below the 10-year average production. Except for the 6.6 million bushels harvested in 1945, it would also be the smallest crop since 1929. Indicated yield of 115 bushels per acre is the same as last year and 11 bushels above average, but the acreage is down 6 percent from a year ago. The crop has responded favorably to recent rains and fair to good yields are in prospect in nearly all sections. Harvest of the commercial acreage is advancing under favorable conditions in coastal areas.

## COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS

## LATE SUMMER SNAP BEANS

Growers of late summer snap beans in Western North Carolina have an estimated 5,700 acres of beans for harvest this year. This is 26 percent below the acreage harvested last year. An average yield of 110 bushels is expected this year resulting in a production of 627,000 bushels -- 32 percent less than 1947 production.

## LATE SUMMER CABBAGE

A total of 3,900 acres of late summer cabbage is currently estimated for harvest in North Carolina this year. This is 200 acres above that harvested in 1947. At an average yield of 7.3 tons per acre a total production of 28,500 tons is now estimated, just slightly above the production last year.

## WATERMELONS

At 8,900 acres for harvest, North Carolina's watermelon acreage is about 10 percent smaller than in 1947. An estimated production of 1,958,000 melons is forecast for this season, compared with 2,227,000 melons last year. This would mean a per acre yield slightly under 1947. The effects of mid-summer dry soil conditions are reflected in melons of smaller size than normal but of higher sugar content than usual.

## PEACH PRODUCTION LOW

Prospective production of peaches in North Carolina this year dropped from the July 1 outlook to 1,646,000 bushels as of August 1. A crop this size would be about 43 percent short of the 2,905,000 bushels produced in 1947. This lower estimate of peach production reflects the extent of loss caused by the late spring freeze this year. Estimates of the effects of such losses become progressively more accurate as the harvest season advances and growers are in a better position to appraise their crops. In comparison, the ten-year average production for the state is 29 percent

## PEACH (Continued from Col. 2)

greater than the current estimate for this season.

INDICATED PRODUCTION OF PEACHES  
AS OF AUGUST 1, 1948

STATE	PRODUCTION				
	AVERAGE	1946	1947	INDICATED 1948	1948 AS % OF 1947
- THOUSAND BUSHELS -					
N.C.	2,131	3,160	2,905	1,646	56.7
TENN.	1,004	540	1,209	465	38.5
VA...	1,480	2,640	1,680	1,209	71.9
S.C.	3,151	5,994	6,630	3,320	50.1
GA...	5,037	5,628	5,810	3,280	56.4
U.S.	66,725	86,643	82,603	70,358	85.1

## APPLE CROP NEAR AVERAGE

The production outlook for North Carolina's commercial apple crop, as of August 1, was estimated at 1,024,000 bushels. Barring the development of extremes of weather, such as severe late-summer hailstorms or damaging winds in the state's commercial apple producing areas, apple production this season will be about 33 percent more than the 768,000 bushels produced in the Tar Heel State last year. However, the current prediction estimate is slightly under the 1937-46 average.

Generally, the condition of the commercial apple crop varies rather widely but is considerably above that for the comparable date a year ago. Growers have taken good care of trees through their pruning and spraying programs, keeping diseases and insects well under control.

## EGG PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOW

Hens on North Carolina farms laid 79 million eggs during July. This is 13 million below the previous month's production. During July of 1947, 84 million eggs were laid. Recent monthly decreases in egg production are in line with seasonal trends; however, due primarily to a decreased number of layers on farms, total egg production continues to run comparatively low. There were 6,105,000 layers on farms during July, compared with 6,512,000 a month earlier and 6,686,000 in July of last year. The July rate of lay averaged 12.9 eggs per hen, compared with 14.1 in June and 12.5 during July of a year ago.

## MILK PRODUCTION HIGHER

It is estimated that 147 million pounds of milk was produced on North Carolina farms during July. The 414 pounds produced per cow during the month, reflecting the usual seasonal increase in milk flow, is 9 pounds above the average produced per cow during June. The estimated 355,000 milk cows on farms during the month were about the same as in June but 4,000 less than in July of last year.

Pastures had not fully recovered from previous dry weather by August 1.



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FARM REPORT

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NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1947 AND INDICATED 1948

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	AVERAGE 1937-46	HARVESTED 1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	REVISED 1947	INDICATED 1948
	- THOUSANDS -						- THOUSANDS -		
CORN, ALL.....BU.	2,334	2,138	2,309	21.8	30.5	32.0	50,787	65,209	73,888
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	460	497	432	14.3	17.0	16.0	6,567	8,449	6,912
OATS.....BU.	288	394	260	25.9	29.5	30.0	7,593	11,623	7,800
BARLEY.....BU.	28	35	27	23.0	28.0	23.5	665	980	634
RYE.....BU.	43	24	25	10.1	14.0	12.0	422	336	300
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	652.3	792.6	607	999.0	1,145.0	1,145.0	654,807	907,181	694,950
TYPE 11.....LBS.	251.9	302.0	233	928.0	1,060.0	1,130.0	235,771	320,120	263,290
TYPE 12.....LBS.	318.0	387.0	294	1,039.0	1,205.0	1,140.0	331,146	466,335	335,160
TYPE 13.....LBS.	73.6	94.0	70	1,044.0	1,125.0	1,150.0	77,160	105,750	80,500
TYPE 31.....LBS.	8.8	9.6	10	1,181.0	1,560.0	1,600.0	10,731	14,976	16,000
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	802	647	721	355.0	335.0	446.0	582 1/2	452 1/2	670 1/2
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	86	72	74	107.0	128.0	133.0	9,145	9,216 2/3	9,842 2/3
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	75	64	60	104.0	115.0	115.0	7,823	7,360	6,900
SOYBEANS FOR BEANS.....BU.	203	261	277	11.5	15.0	13.5	2,333	3,915	3,740
COWPEAS, ALONE.....BU.	150	55	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESH.....LBS.	268	301	307	1,153.0	1,030.0	1,200.0	306,260	310,030	368,400
HAY, ALL.....TONS.	1,199	1,225	1,226	.98	.99	.95	1,176	1,207	1,165
ALFALFA.....TONS.	9	19	28	2.00	2.35	2.10	19	45	59
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS.	72	84	92	1.10	1.15	1.10	80	97	101
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	85 2/3	80 2/3	79 2/3	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,131	2,905	1,646
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,065	768	1,024
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	302	298	195
GRAPES.....TONS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.6	5.2
UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	89,616	83,981	85,497	31.4	28.6	41.0	2,813,529	2,400,952	3,506,363
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	58,832	74,186	71,502	16.1	18.4	18.0	942,623	1,364,919	1,284,323
OATS.....BU.	38,056	38,648	40,970	32.3	31.5	35.9	1,231,814	1,215,970	1,470,444
BARLEY.....BU.	12,615	10,947	12,177	23.7	25.5	25.7	298,811	279,182	313,139
RYE.....BU.	3,055	2,022	2,187	12.1	12.8	12.2	37,398	25,977	26,664
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	1,644.0	1,845.0	1,536.0	1,008.0	1,142.0	1,158.0	1,664,265	2,107,763	1,777,783
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED.....LBS.	954.7	1,161.2	888.5	985.0	1,135.0	1,131.0	944,809	1,317,466	1,005,007
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	23,274	21,269	23,223	254.2	267.2	313.5	12,014 1/2	11,851 1/2	15,169
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	2,826	2,112	2,109	139.3	182.0	189.2	392,143	384,407 2/3	399,127
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	728	611	541	89.2	93.5	95.6	64,866	57,178	51,739
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	7,162	11,125	9,900	18.8	16.3	20.7	134,642	181,362	205,066
COWPEAS, ALONE.....BU.	2,710	1,143	1,069	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESH.....LBS.	2,531	3,389	3,340	708.0	646.0	701.0	1,750,718	2,187,985	2,340,700
HAY, ALL.....TONS.	73,018	75,291	73,624	1.34	1.36	1.33	97,563	102,500	97,707
ALFALFA.....TONS.	14,600	14,908	14,577	2.16	2.25	2.22	31,540	33,475	33,132
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS.	21,062	23,402	22,356	1.35	1.39	1.30	28,617	32,569	29,055
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	78 2/3	86 2/3	84 2/3	-	-	-
PEACHES.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,725	82,603	70,358
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,058	113,041	100,445
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,222	35,312	26,424
GRAPES.....TONS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,701	3,072	3,014

- 1/ Reported in 500 lb. gross weight bales.  
2/ Includes Government Purchases from unharvested acres.  
3/ Condition - percent of normal on August 1.